



Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

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8/28/2000

Ms. Alexis Strauss, Director
United States Environmental Protection - WTR-1
Water Division
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

Dear Ms. Strauss,

This letter is to request the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX's assistance in assessing the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe's water source on the Colorado River. There are currently 11 NPDES permits issued for the discharge of effluent into the Colorado River, as well as three industrial sites that may be contributing to non point source runoff. The Chemehuevi Tribe is concerned that Hexavalent Chromium, mercury and Ammonium Perchlorate are being released by these NPDES dischargers and industrial sites into the Las Vegas Wash near Henderson, Nevada. At present, very little is known about the ecological effects of Hexa-chromium and perchlorate, and what potential effects these and other stressors may have on tribal drinking water sources and fisheries.

At the EPA Tribal Non-point Source Workshop held on July 25, 2000 in Reno, Nevada, Mr. Robert Hall of your division gave a presentation on the benefits of bioassessment in assessing surface waters. A biological assessment of the Colorado River and Lake Havasu would help the Tribe to determine the quality of the tribal source water as well as the health of the fisheries. We would like to request that Mr. Hall assist the Tribe in determining the effects of the above stressors.

Your attention to this matter is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Edward D. Smith
Tribal Chairman

cc: Kevin Meyer
Joel Jones
Steve Johnson
Robert Hall
Jeneé Gavette